

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 and 6 are pending in the application. Claim 1 is currently amended. Claims 2, 4-5 are canceled.

The amendment to claim 1 is from the incorporation of the subject matter of claim 2. The applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated **December 27, 2005**.

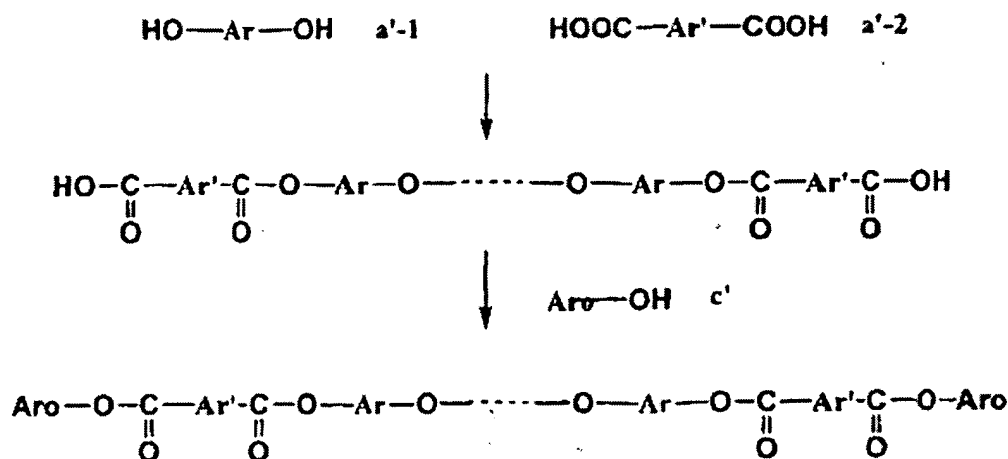
The applicants appreciate the Examiner indicating on p.4 of the Office Action that claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1, 2 and 6 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent No. 12650 (Japanese '650).

The aromatic polyester of the claimed invention is produced by the reaction of both terminal groups of the polycondensed intermediate which is formed by polycondensation of polyhydric phenol (a'-1) and polyvalent carboxylic acid (a'-2), with monohydric phenol (c') as described in lines 15 to 22 on page 15 of the present specification:

The aromatic polyester is formed by polycondensation of esterification reaction polyhydric phenol (a'-1) bonded to the aromatic hydrocarbon groups (a1) or the aromatic hydrocarbon groups (a2) with hydroxyl group, and polyvalent carboxylic acid (a'-2) bonded to the aromatic hydrocarbon groups (a1) or the aromatic hydrocarbon groups (a2) with carboxyl groups. Then, the aromatic polyester is produced by esterification of the terminal carboxyl groups of the above polycondensed intermediate and monohydric phenol (c') bonded aryl groups which is the aryloxycarbonyl groups (c) with hydroxyl groups.

These reactions result in the polymer having high molecular weight and repeating units of ester bonding as shown below. The amendment to claim 1 adds the recitation of "inherent viscosity within a range of 0.02 to 0.42 dL/g" *to define that the polyester has a high molecular weight.*



(wherein, Ar, Ar' and Aro are each independently an aromatic hydrocarbon group.)

The aromatic polyester used in the claimed invention is an aromatic polyester polycondensed by the reaction of polyhydric phenol (a'-1) and polyvalent carboxylic acid (a'-2) and has a molecular structure of an aryloxycarbonyl group at the terminal of the molecule by reacting monohydric phenol (c') bonded at both terminal groups of it.

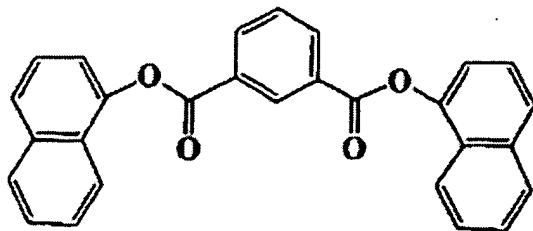
The claimed invention reduces the concentration of the terminal group of aryloxycarbonyl group due to a high polymerization rate. The aryloxycarbonyl groups at the terminal of the

molecules provide better dielectric property; however, these decrease the heat resistance of the cured articles since these groups are not involved in crosslinking practically (lines 3 to 6 on page 3 of the specification). Therefore, the invention as now claimed achieves a remarkable improvement *by employing the highly polymerized polyester structure.*

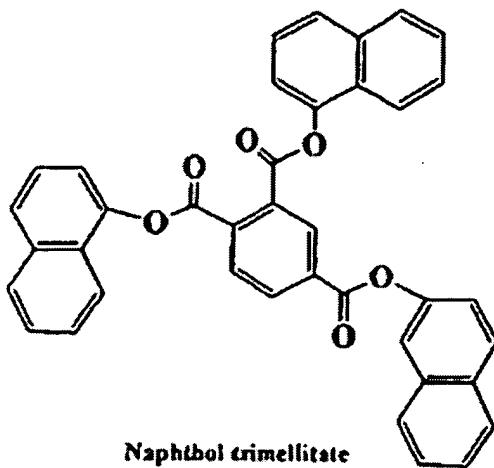
On the other hand, the compound described in JP '650, for example, naphthol isophthalate or trimellitate as pointed out at the top of p.3 of the Office Action, *does not have a high molecular weight polyester moiety* formed by the reaction of polyhydric phenol and polyvalent carboxylic acid as shown below. *Therefore, the heat resistance of the cured articles is inferior since the concentration of the aryloxy carbonyl group at the terminal becomes high.*

Expanding on this point, the ester compound shown in synthesis Example 9 on p.28 the specification (Ester compound A9) is naphthol isophthalate. The "inherent viscosity" of the above naphthol isophthalate is shown under 0.02 in Table 2 on p.33 of the specification and the heat resistance of the resultant using naphthol isophthalate is extremely low as is clear from the result of Comparative Example 4 (Table 5) on p.39 of the specification.

Therefore, the claimed invention is clearly different from JP '650 in terms of the chemical structure and the properties, shown empirically in Table 2 and Table 5.



Naphthol isophthalate



Naphthol trimellitate

Furthermore, polyhydric phenol such as benzene diol, benzene triol, biphenols besides monofunctional phenol such as phenol and naphthol are disclosed as "an aromatic compound having phenolic hydroxyl group" in paragraphs [0063] and [0064] of JP'650 (see partial translation of JP '650 attached).

However, the invention disclosed in JP '650 is an epoxy resin reacted by "the compound having polyvalent carboxylic acid" and "the aromatic compound having phenolic hydroxyl group" as shown in claim 1 of the reference and there is no disclosure or suggestion in JP '650 of forming an

aryloxycarbonyl group at the terminal of the molecule by reacting polyvalent carboxylic acid with polyhydric phenol and then reacting monovalent phenol as in the claimed invention.

Therefore, the ester compound produced by using polyhydric phenol of JP '650, has a phenolic hydroxyl group or carboxyl group at the terminal of the molecule. However, such an ester compound as described in lines 13 to 19 on page 2 of the present specification is inferior in dielectric tangent due to the remaining hydroxyl groups or the carboxyl groups in the molecule. This can be understood by the fact that the dielectric tangent becomes high when using an active ester which is just reacted with "polyhydric phenol and polyvalent carboxylic acid" in Comparative Examples 3 (polyfunctional activated ester H3 is used). Considering the use of *polyhydric phenol as "the aromatic compound having phenolic hydroxyl group" in JP '650*, the disclosure of JP '650 clearly differs from the claimed invention.

Substantially as shown above, the claimed invention is chemically different from the disclosure of the reference. It is therefore impossible for JP'650 to anticipate the invention as now claimed. It is urged that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, the claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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Amendment filed March 27, 2006
Reply to OA dated December 27, 2005

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: Partial translation of JP2002-012650